Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 PORT O 00497 261817Z

63 L
ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00 INR-07

NSAE-00 DODE-00 EUR-12 L-03 AF-06 IO-11 SAM-01 PRS-01

/078 W
---------- 021264
R 271445Z FEB 76
FM AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8861
INFO AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN
AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN
AMEMBASSYYLONDON
AMEMBASSY PARAMARIBO

C O N F I D E N T I A L PORT OF SPAIN 0497

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, TD, AO, CU, US
SUBJECT: TRINIDAD REAFFIRMS ANGOLA POLICY
REF: (A) PORT OF SPAIN 376, (B) PORT OF SPAIN 002
(C) 75 PORT OF SPAIN 3043

BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED

SUMMARY. THE TRINIDAD GOVERNMENT HAS DECIDED TO DELAY RECOGNITION OF ANY ANGOLAN GOVERNMENT UNTIL THAT COUNTRY IS ADMITTED TO THE UNITED NATIONS. THE GOTT ALSO ANNOUNCED THAT IT HAD REJECTED A REQUEST FROM THE CONGRESS OF RACIAL EQUALITY FOR PERMISSION TO USE TRINIDAD AS A REFUELING STOP FOR AIRCRAFT CARRYING VOLUNTEERS TO FIGHT IN ANGOLA. THEPOSSIBLE INVOLVEMENT OF TRINIDADIAN NATIONALS IN MERCENARY VENTURES IN ANGOLA SUCH AS THE ONE BEING ORGANIZED BY CORE HAS BECOME A MATTER OF CONCERN TO GHE GOTT. END SUMMARY.

1. THE TRINIDAD GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCED FEBRUARY 24 THAT IT HAD DENIED A REQUEST FROM THE U.S. CONGRESS OF RACIAL EQUALITY (CORE) TO USE TRINIDAD'S AIRPORT TO REFUEL AIR-
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 PORT O 00497 261817Z

CRAFT FERRYING BLACK AMERICAN VOLUNTEERS TO FIGHT WITH

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006

UNITA IN ANGOLA. THE GOVERNMENT ALSO REFUSED PERMISSION TO USE ITS FACILITIES FOR CORE AIRCRAFT CARRYING MEDICAL PERSONNEL AND SUPPLIES TO UNITA. MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS CUTHBERT JOSEPH, WHO MADE THE ANNOUNCEMENT AT A NEWS CONFERENCE, SAID THAT TRINIDAD'S AMBASSADOR IN WASHINGTON HAD RECEIVED THE REQUEST FROM CORE AND HAD RELAYED IT TO PORT OF SPAIN. PRIME MINISTER WILLIAMS THEN CONVENED A SPECIAL CABINET MEETING ON FEBRUARY 24 ON THE ENTIRE ANGOLAN SITUATION AT WHICH THE DECISION TO DENY THE CORE REQUESTS WAS MADE.

2. JOSEPH EXPLAINED THAT THE GOVERNMENT'S DECISION, LIKE AN EARLIER DECISION ON A SIMILAR REQUEST FROM CUBA, WAS BASED ON A FIRM TRINIDADIAN POLICY OF ABSOLUTE NON-INTERFERENCE IN THE INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF OTHER COUNTRIES. THE ONLY POSSIBLE EXCEPTION TO THIS POLICY WITH RESPECT TO ANGOLA, HE SAID, COULD BE THE USE OF TRINIDAD'S FACILITIES BY THE INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS ON "ERRANDS FO MERCY".

3. THE MINISTER ALSO ANNOUNCED THAT THE CABINET HAD DECIDED THAT IT WOULD NOT RECOGNIZE THE MPLA AS THE GOVERNMENT OF ANGOLA UNTIL THAT GOVERNMENT IS ADMITTED INTO THE UNITED NATIONS. HE SAID THAT TRINIDAD'S POLICY SINCE INDEPENDENCE HAD BEEN TO RECOGNIZE "STATES AND GOVERNMENTS ON THE OCCASION OF THEIR ADMISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS, AND, IN THE CASE OF COMMONWEALTH COUNTRIES, ON THE OCCASION OF THEIR APPLICATION FOR ADMISSION TO THE COMMONWEALTH". THE CABINET DECIDED THAT TRINIDAD WOULD, HOWEVER, "ADHERE TO ITS PRACTICE OF COSPONSORING, AS A MEMBER OF THE COMMITTEE OF 24, THE RESOLUTION FOR ADMISSION INTO THE UNITED NATIONS OF ANY STATE WHICH ACHIEVES INDE-PENDENCE THROUGH THE DECOLONIZATION PROCESS".

4. THE CABINET WAS ALSO CONCERNED, HOSEPH SAID, ABOUT THE POSSIBILITY THAT NATIONALS OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO MIGHT BE RECRUITED FOR MILITARY OR OTHER SERVICE IN ANGOLA AND HAD DIRECTED THE ATTORNEY GENERAL TO STUDY LEGAL MEASURES WHICH MIGHT BE EMPLOYED TO PREVENT THIS FROM HAPPENING. IN THE MEANTIME, THE GOVERNMENT WOULD TAKE CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 PORT O 00497 261817Z

"ALL REASONABLE STEPS" AT HOME AND THROUGH ITS MISSIONS ABROAD TO DISCOURAGE ANY INVOLVEMENT BY TRINIDADIANS IN ANGOLA.

5. JOSEPH CAREFULLY AVOIDED REPLYING DIRECTLY TO REPORTERS' QUESTIONS ABOT STRAINS WHICH HAD DEVELOPED IN TRINIDAD'S RELATIONS WITH CUBA FOLLOWING TRINIDAD'S REFUSAL TO ALLOW CUBAN AIRCRAFT TO REFUEL AT PIARCO

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006

AIRPORT ON THE WAY TO ANGOLA. HE DENIED THAT DIPLOMATIC RELATONS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES WERE ABOUT TO BE BROKEN BUT DID NOT ADDRESS THE QUESTION OF TRINIDADIAN MISAPPREHENSIONS ABOUT CUBAN ADVENTURISM. THE CARIBBEAN LAW OF THE SEA CONFERENCE, WHICH HAD BEEN SCHEDULED TO TAKE PLACE IN PORT OF SPAIN IN JANUARY WITH CUBA AND TRINIDAD AS COSPONSORS, HAD BEEN "POSTPONED" BECAUSE PREPARATIONS WERE HAPHAZARD AND IT HAD BEEN "DIFFICULT TO MEET THE TIMETALBE", AND NOT BECAUSE OF DISAGREEMENTS WITH CUBA, HE SAID. (SEE REF B.) END UNCLASSIFIED
BEGIN CONFIDENTIAL.

6. COMMENT: SUPERFICIALLY, THE CABINET'S DECISION ON RECOGNITION OF THE MPLA IS MERELY A REAFFIRMATION OF ITS PREVIOUSLY ANNOUNCED POLICY OF NEUTRALITY AND NON-INTERFEERENCE. IN THE CONTEXT OF THE CHANGED SITUATION IN ANGOLA AND THE PRIME MINISTER'S PUBLIC CRITICISM OF CUBAN ADVENTURISM, HOWEVER, TRINIDAD'S POSTPONEMENT OF RECOGNITION OF ANY ANGOLAN GOVERNMENT UNTIL NEXT FALL MUST BE INTERPRETED AS ANOTHER INDICATION OF DISAPPROVAL OF THE SOVIET-CUBAN INTERVENTION. WHILE JOSEPH DID NOT CHOOSE TO MAKE THE GOVERNMENT'S DISPLASURE WITH CUBA A MATTER OF PUBLIC RECORED, THERE HAS IN FACT BEEN A MARKED COOLING OF ITS ENTHUSIASM FOR CUBA AND ITS DESIRE TO COOPERATE WITH CUBA IN DEVELOPING CARIBBEAN COOPERATION AND INTEGRA-TION. NOW HAVING FIRED ITS SALVOS BY DENYING REFUELING FACILITIES TO CUBA, CALLING OFF THE MEETING OF THE ECLA CARIBBEAN COMMITTEE, AND REFUSING TO RECOGNIZE THE MPLA, THE GOTT IS WAITING FOR A REACTION OR RETALIATION FROM HAVANA.
FAY

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: RECOGNITION, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION, MERCENARIES, NEUTRALISM
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 27 FEB 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: blochd0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976PORTO00497
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760073-0466
From: PORT OF SPAIN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t1976025/aaaaadmc.tel
Line Count: 145
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 PORT OF SPAIN 376, 76 PORT OF SPAIN 2
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: blochd0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 07 JUL 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <07 JUL 2004 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <27 OCT 2004 by blochd0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: TRINIDAD REAFFIRMS ANGOLA POLICY
TAGS: PFOR, TD, AO, CU, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006